




FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

	Policy Number: 261-06	Effective Date: 04/09/2018	
	Subject: Stopping and Approaching Violators		
	Approved by:  Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police		

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for stopping and approaching traffic violators.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department that all officers use caution to assure the safety and well-being of themselves, the violator, and the public during a traffic stop.

PROCEDURE:

Stopping/Approaching Vehicles:

Upon observing a traffic violation, officers should make contact with the violator after taking into consideration the potential inherent dangers to the public, the violator, and the officer. Officers should attempt to anticipate an appropriate location for the traffic stop to occur. The anticipated location selected for stopping the violator should allow for a safe approach to the violator's vehicle, a safe position from which to contact the violator and a safe return from the violator's vehicle. Ambient lighting, traffic volume and flow, distance from the lanes of traffic and a preferable placement of the police vehicle are all items which the officer should consider when choosing the stop location.

In the event that the violator stops in a location that is unsafe for the contacting officer, the officer shall have discretion to give verbal instructions to the violator. Utilizing the police vehicle's public address system or other means, the officer may direct the violator to a more suitable location.

The officer may choose to not affect a stop or approach of a vehicle if the officer deems the circumstances, environment, or other safety factors preclude a safe stop or contact.

Police Dispatch shall be advised of the impending stop, giving the violator's vehicle information (whenever possible) including:

1. Location of the stop;
2. Vehicle License Plate;

For purposes of officer safety, officers may also include the following information:

1. Vehicle Make and Model (if not known; provide best description possible);
2. Color of vehicle;
3. Number and type of occupants;
4. Any other descriptive information pertinent to that stop.

Procedures for Stopping the Violator:

1. Engage the emergency lights and all camera systems. Use of the siren, public address (P.A.) system, and hazard lights are authorized when appropriate;
2. The spotlight, high beams, and any other lighting sources may be used to illuminate the exterior and interior of the vehicle to provide for a safe approach to the vehicle as deemed necessary by the stopping officer;
3. The stopping officer shall have discretion in determining the method of approaching and contacting the occupants of the violating vehicle most suited to the circumstances present. It is recommended that prior to approaching the vehicle, the officer give consideration to potential escape routes, should an emergency and/or hazardous situation evolve;
4. The officer should place his vehicle in such a location so as to:
 - a. Provide as much protection as reasonably obtainable from impacts from behind the police unit;
 - b. Provide an appropriate or adequate distance and cover from potential harmful acts of the violator;
 - c. Provide adequate visibility of the violator while taking enforcement action.

Procedures for contacting Roadway/Roadside Vehicle Hazards:

Upon observing a vehicle which has become stalled on the roadway, officers will:

1. Engage their emergency lights;
2. Position their vehicles to provide suitable safety for the motorist and the contacting officer;
3. Exercise due caution when contacting the motorist;
4. Provide for the removal of the vehicle from the roadway as soon as possible;

5. Provide necessary assistance to the motorist.